



TOBACCO USE Fact Sheet

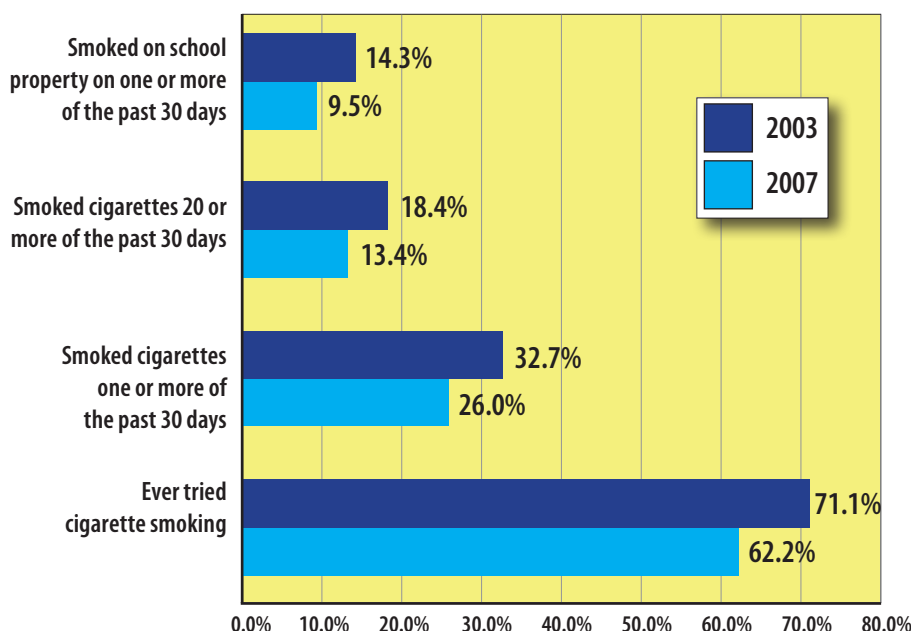
Tobacco Use

Tobacco use, including cigarette smoking, cigar smoking, and smokeless tobacco use, is the single leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Each year smoking causes 435,000 premature deaths. If current patterns of smoking behaviors continue, an estimated 6.4 million of today's children can be expected to die prematurely from a smoking-related disease.¹ Kentucky students have some of the highest rates in the country of current cigarette use (26.0%), frequency of current cigarette use (13.4%), current smokeless tobacco use (15.8%), and lifetime cigarette use (62.2%).

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/tobacco/index.htm>. Retrieved 7/28/08.

Statistically Significant Changes in Tobacco Use in Kentucky

This graph represents behaviors in adolescent tobacco use that have had statistically significant changes from 2003 to 2007. Although these statistical changes are all positive, Kentucky students still lead the nation in tobacco use.



The YRBS is a nationwide survey produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) to monitor the six critical health behaviors of adolescents: alcohol and drug use, injury and violence (including suicide), tobacco use, nutrition, physical activity, and sexual risk behaviors. The data is collected from students in 9th through 12th grades every two years. In 2007, Kentucky was able to obtain weighted high school data.

Youth Disproportionately at Risk

- Whites (27.0%) and Hispanic/Latinos (32.1%) are more likely than blacks (14.4%) to have smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days
- Whites (14.3%) are more likely than blacks (5.2%) to have smoked cigarettes on 20 or more of the past 30 days
- Whites (22.3%) are more likely than blacks (9.3%) to have ever smoked daily, that is, at least one cigarette everyday for 30 days
- Females (64.8%) are more likely than males (53.3%) to have tried to quit smoking cigarettes in the past 12 months
- Males (26.7%) are more likely than females (4.4%) to have used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on one or more of the past 30 days
- Whites (16.5%) are more likely than blacks (7.0%) to have used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on one or more of the past 30 days

For More Information

For additional KY YRBS data and other YRBS fact sheets, visit the KDE website at: <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/School+Health/Youth+Risk+Behavior+Survey.htm>

For national data or more information on the YRBS, visit the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>